

Questions to Help Establish Voice

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:

[How to Establish Your Protagonist's Voice to Build Trust with Your Reader](#)

What motivated your protagonist to tell this story?

This will determine *how* he tells the story—perhaps he wants to teach a lesson or relay a funny story.

What motivates your protagonist in each scene he is in?

The protagonist should always have a clear and present motivation. Even if it's not shared with the reader beforehand, it should be obvious looking back.

How does your protagonist see the world?

We all view the world differently. It's different from personality—it's about how you see the world around you.

Is your protagonist's voice consistent throughout the story?

Switching between points of view and characters can destroy the trust you build with the reader.

Who does your protagonist *think* he's talking to?

The audience dictates the voice, much like how in real life we moderate our speech depending on if we're speaking to children or trusted friends.
